Syphilis. This is mandatory under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, the implementation of which is being strengthened. (ii) Professional donation has been banned and voluntary donation is being promoted through various IEC strategies. (iii) National blood policy expected to function as a strategic framework for developing a safe, reliable and efficient blood transfusion services in the country has been formulated. National Blood Transfusion Council at the national level and State Blood Transfusion Councils at the state level have established to help in better management of Blood Transfusion Services.

Use of Expired Medicines During Pulse Polio Drive

1568. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that expired medicines were used during the pulse polio drive;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of such cases were detected in U.P. and Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the CBI has registered cases of not providing the polio dose in Rajasthan, besides the scam of Rs. 40 lakhs; and

(e) if so, the details of action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HELATH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There has been no report of any case registered for not providing polio doses in Rajasthan. However, a case of alleged financial irregularity by some officials of Rajasthan Government is presently under investigation by CBI.

Meeting of Chief Ministers on AIDS

1569. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had called a meeting of the Chief Ministers to discuss the alarming situation arising out of AIDS;

(b) if so, the major decisions taken to control the alarming situation;

(c) the number of AIDS/HIV patients in the country as on today; and